

RESOLUTION NO. 263 -2007

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY
SUPPORTING A PROGRAM TO CONVERT
DECOMMISSIONED SEPTIC TANKS TO CISTERNS.**

WHEREAS, the State of Florida is currently under drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has experienced many drought years in the recent past;
and

WHEREAS, as an area of critical state concern, Monroe County is under a State rule
requiring the sewerage of the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, owners of on-site sewage treatment systems, including septic tanks, are
required by law to connect to a central sewerage system within 30 days of such a system
becoming available; and

WHEREAS, health regulations require the decommissioning of septic tanks when a
property is switched to a central sewerage system; and

WHEREAS, decommissioned septic tanks could be converted into cisterns for the
collection and storage of rainwater to be used for landscape irrigation and other non-potable
water uses; and

WHEREAS, the use of cisterns would alleviate the demand for ever-decreasing water
resources; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida Department of Health Rule 64E-6.001, F.A.C. prohibits
the use of a decommissioned septic tank for any other purpose; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida Department of Health has previously allowed a
variance from Rule 64E-6.001, F.A.C., to allow the conversion of septic tanks to cisterns; and

WHEREAS, in an April 2005 e-mail, the Monroe County Health Department announced
that it would consider group variances under a single application; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners finds that conversion of septic tanks

to cisterns for irrigation purposes would: save drinking water otherwise used for landscape irrigation currently, reduces storm water runoff since rainwater which strikes the roof is collected instead of becoming sheet flow carrying pollutants into near shore waters, reduce the reasons to violate water restrictions; and result in a greener Florida landscape during times of severe drought;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1: That Monroe County supports a program for converting decommissioned septic tanks to cisterns for use for irrigation purposes.

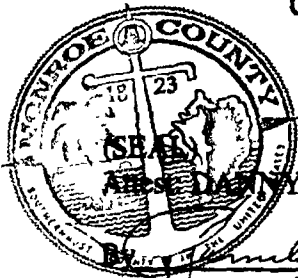
Section 2: Monroe County encourages the State of Florida to establish a conversion program which would encourage and facilitate the conversion of septic tanks to cisterns.

Section 3: The Clerk is directed to send certified copies of this Resolution to Florida to Ana Viamonte Ros, Secretary of Department of Health (DOH), 2585 Merchants Row Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL; Gerald Briggs, DOH Division of Environmental Health, Chief of Onsite Sewage Programs, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1728, and to Bob Eadie, Director of the Monroe County Health Department, 1100 Simonton Street, Key West, FL 33040.

Section 4: This Resolution shall become effective on the date written below.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, at a meeting of said Board held on the 18th day of July, A.D., 2007.

Mayor Mario DiGennaro	<u>Yes</u>
Mayor Pro Tem Dixie M. Spehar	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Charles "Sonny" McCoy	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Sylvia Murphy	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner George Neugent	<u>Not Present</u>



Attest: DANNY L. KOLHAGE, Clerk

Deputy Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By Mario DiGennaro
Mayor/Chairman

MONROE COUNTY ATTORNEY
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JANNE A. HUTTON
COUNTY ATTORNEY

7/27/07

DANNY L. KOLHAGE
CLK. CIR. CL.
MONROE COUNTY, FLA.

2007 JUL 30 AM 11:38

FILED FOR RECORD